THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 17th March 1953.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Government Hospital, Cannanore.

*42 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to extend the Cannanore Government Hospital buildings?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The answer is in the affirmative."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" When will the construction of the new block be completed, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Government approved certain schemes for improvement of certain taluk headquarters hospitals in 1949–50 and 1950–51 and 1951–52. Some of these schemes have not yet been taken up for execution and I cannot say when the work will be completed."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" According to the schemes of making extensions to the taluk headquarters hospitals, will the Government propose making extensions to the Villupuram hospital also?"

MR. SPEAKER :—" A separate question may be put."

Election of members to Works Committees in factories.

*43 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state why the Government have changed the procedure of electing members of Works Committees in factories by amending the rules issued under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1948, so as to have the elections conducted departmentally by arranging polling booths in factories instead of asking the registered trade union of the factory to suggest the names of such members?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Government have changed the procedure of electing members of the Works Committees, because according to the changed procedure, the workers, whether members of the unions or not, will be entitled to vote independently, irrespective of their membership in any Trade Union and this principle is considered an improvement and a more democratic one. The Unions are not prejudiced as their strength can be reflected on the candidates elected by them."